

Our Washington bureaucracy did not make us great, America was made great because we as a Nation strived hard, sacrificed often, and worked together to be the best. It is our goal, the Republican goal, to end the tax trap. It is our goal to help Americans earn more money and to keep more of the money they earned so they can do more for themselves, their children, their family and their community, and save more for their children and their future. And, frankly, to be able to give a little more at the collection box on Sunday.

Unending dreams and limitless possibilities, that is what the American dream is all about. It is up to all of us to take it back.

THE AMERICAN DREAM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Tennessee [Mr. HILLEARY] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HILLEARY. Mr. Speaker, today we send more money to the tax collector than we spend combined on food, clothing, and shelter. In 1950, taxes just took a fraction of the working family's income, but today almost half of what the working person earns goes to the government in one form or another. Half.

Mr. Speaker, in the America my parents grew up in, if you worked hard and played by the rules, you had enough money left over from your paycheck to put something away for the future and you still had enough for those little extras that help make life special, at least your material life, like maybe taking your family on a vacation, for example.

That was what the American dream was all about. The American dream was also about making sure that children had more opportunities, more choices, and a better life than their parents.

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And they should have those things. Then why is it for the first time in our history an entire generation of Americans has lost hope and confidence in their future? Why have we lost the vision of dreaming dreams and of unlimited possibilities?

The answer for too many people lies in Washington, DC. For decades, Mr. Speaker, Washington has told America that everything is OK, while it spent our children's inheritance and undermined their future. For too long, Washington has spent more than it takes in and spent our hard-earned tax dollars unwisely just to pay for a growing Washington bureaucracy. A bureaucracy that includes 160 different job training programs, 240 education programs, 300 economic development programs and 500 urban aid programs, just to mention a very few.

How does Washington afford all of these overlapping programs? By raising our taxes through the roof. Just ask

our President. He was not in office 100 days before attempting to take even more of the hard-working people's hard-earned dollars.

By comparison, Republicans in Congress spent our first 100 days trying to desperately give tax relief to those same people but it was vetoed by the President. It should not surprise anyone that more and more American families find it difficult to make ends meet; that more and more Americans are forced to live paycheck to paycheck; and, that too many Americans want to put something away for the future but are not able to do it.

We should not be surprised by Bill Clinton's response. Against unanimous Republican opposition, Mr. Clinton imposed the largest tax hike in American history, \$264 billion, yet he thinks if we take that money to pay for more and more government programs, somehow this will make people's lives better off.

It just cannot happen that way. The cost of Mr. Clinton's policies to the typical American family in higher taxes and lower earnings is \$2,600 and all of us have felt that crunch; specially those who work for a living. Clinton's tax trap costs a lot of money and higher taxes means less savings and a more uncertain future, and that is why we have so many people in this country so afraid of the future and I share that fear.

These are real people with real concerns and real fires, and for them I ask every Washington bureaucrat, every Washington lawyer, every Washington lobbyist and frankly every Washington liberal, what is so extreme about asking Washington to live within its means? What is so extreme about demanding that Washington not spend extravagantly at the expense of our children?

Is it right to punish working families who are trying to save for the future or just trying to get ahead? Of course it is not. The liberals and the bureaucrats will tell you to work just a little harder for them. I say it is time we stopped working for the government tax collector and that next extra overlapping government program and start working for ourselves. It is time to end the tax trap and to give the American family some well-deserved tax relief. It is way past time to return power, influence, and money where it belongs: back to America's working families.

TROOPS IN BOSNIA SHOULD COME HOME BY CHRISTMAS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Washington [Mr. METCALF] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. METCALF. Mr. Speaker, six months ago, 20,000 top United States combat troops were sent to do guard duty in Bosnia. We also support our troops in every possible way and want them back safely before Christmas as promised.

I have consistently opposed sending our fighting forces to foreign lands un-

less the objectives are clear and achievable and the timetable and the exit strategy are stated and fully understood by everyone. None of these details were presented to the Congress.

It is easy to send people to trouble spots, but it is seldom easy to get them out safely in a timely manner and an honorable manner.

President Clinton pledged that this was a temporary mission and that they would be pulled out and brought home in one year. The year is barely half gone. The costs are more than anticipated and rising. What are we now hearing from the highest levels of the administration? The word is filtering down that it may take more time, that our troops may have to stay longer in Bosnia to accomplish their objectives. Objectives which have never been clearly stated and, I believe, never even understood by those who gave the orders that sent them there.

We in Congress must be vigilant in the coming weeks and months. We must not allow our service personnel to become permanent occupation troops in Bosnia. If 1 year is not enough, will 2 or 3 or even 5 years suffice? Not likely. Our Nation should keep its word and our troops should be brought home this winter as promised.

WHO REALLY SPEAKS FOR THE CHILDREN?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. WELDON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, when talking about children, there are significant differences between Democrats and Republicans. Republicans do not believe it takes Washington bureaucrats and spending to raise a child.

But after 30 years of a failed welfare system, a rapidly failing public education system, and a deteriorating justice system, Republicans have a different answer. What it takes to raise a child successfully today is quite simple: two responsible parents. What children need is not more Government spending but a mother and a father who care about them.

When talking about children, Republicans begin with three principles:

First, that the moral health of a nation is no less important than its economic or military strength. The fact is, you cannot have a healthy moral environment to raise children in America when 12-year-olds are having babies, 15-year-olds are killing each other, 17-year-olds are dying of AIDS, and 18-year-olds are graduating with diplomas they cannot read. If we are to restore the moral health of America, this behavior has got to stop.

Second, it is the results, not the rhetoric, that counts. Anyone can sound compassionate, but the truly compassionate are those that go out and find ways to make the lives of our children more happy and healthy.